

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 INR-07 L-03 /045 W  
-----161835Z 064641 /42

R 161534Z MAR 77  
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3274  
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 7452

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2541

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR DALE GOOD, S/IL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB ILO  
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, MARCH 5-6, 1977

REF: GENEVA 1761

1. IAN JOHNSTON, BRITISH LABOR ADVISOR HERE, ATTENDED THE TWO-DAY LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA AS AN OBSERVER, ALTHOUGH NOT INCOUDED IN THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS DISTRIBUTED AT THE MEETING. AT HIS INITIATIVE, HE GAVE US A COPY OF HIS REPORT ON THE MEETING, WHICH HE SAID WAS FOR OUR INFORMATION AND "NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION."

2. THE FULL REPORT IS BEING AIRPOUCHED TO GOOD, S/IL, AND GOOTT, EUR. SIGNIFICANT EXERCEPTS FOLLOW.

BEGIN TEXT.

AS DELEGATES GATERED FOR THE FIRST SESSIONN OF THE CON-  
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FERNDCE THERE WAS A SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE MOOD, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF UNIONS FROM EASTERN EUROPE, THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT NOT GO WELL BECAUSE THE GERMAN DGB MIGHT BE UNWILLING TO AGREE TO A FURTHER MEETING AND BECAUSE ALMOST ANY WESTERN UNION MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICISE RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BY LUNCH-TIME ON THE FIRST DAY THE

APPREHENSION HAD VISIBLY MELTED AWAY BECAUSE VETTER FOR THE DGB HAD SAID SUCH CONFERENCES WERE USEFUL AND THAT "HUMAN NEEDS OF NEW EUROPE" WERE SUCH THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BEAR THEM IN MIND WHEN DECIDING ON FUTURE CONFERENCES. SEGUY FOR THE FRENCH CGT SUGGESTED THAT TRADE UNION FREEDOM SHOULD BE PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT CONFERENCE BUT REFRAINED FROM CRITICISING ANY COUNTRY IN PARTICULAR.

STILL ON THE FIRST MORNING MURRAY FOR THE TUC SPOKE IN FAVOUR OF BUILDING AN RELATIONSHIP GRADUALLY, AND SHIBAYEV OF THE RUSSIAN VTSPS AVOIDED TOO MUCH IDEOLOGICAL CANT, SO HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT BY VETTER AND SEGUY AS WELL, THE CONFERENCE COASTED ON TO ITS PRE-ORDAINED END WITH SCARECELY A RIPLE DISTURBING THE PEACE. A DRAFTING COMMITTEE WAS SELECTED WITH UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE, AND TOOK JUST OVER AN HOUR TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE COMMUNIQUE ...I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMUNIQUE IS LARGELY BASED ON A TUC DRAFT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 7 WHICH WERE BASED ON A RUSSIAN CONTRIBUTHION. IN THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN VERSION PARAGRPH 7 STARTED "THEY AGREED THAT CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WAS POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY" BUT THIS WAS CHANGED WITHOUT ARGUMENT.

THREE OTHER ISSUES OCCUPIED THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. THE ONLY ONE DISCUSSED OPENLY IN PLENARY SESSION WAS AN ITALIAN CGIL SUGGESTION THAT THE NUMBER OF EUROPEAN WORKERS' MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNNING BODY CHARGED WITH PREPARAING THE NEXT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPANDED FROM FOUR TO EIGHT. IT WAS AURGUED THAT THIS WOULD "DEMOCRATISE" THE PREPARATION PROCESS, BUT THE DUTCH FNV VETOED IT IN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

LATER IN PLENARY SESSION JONES FOR THE TUC SAID THAT "TOO MANY COOIS ETC" AND MURRAY SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING PREVENTING THE FOUR FROM DEMOCRATISING THE PROCESS BY BROADENING THE CONSULTATION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING, PRESUMABLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS DATES AND AGENDA. THIS SUBTEL ITALIAN PLOY TO DISENGAGE SLIGHTLY FROM THE ILO THEREFORE FAILED. ON THE OTHER HAND A GERMAN DGBB ATTEMPT TO TIE THE NEXT TRADE UNION CONFERENCE SPECIFICALLY TO THE NEXT ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ALSO FAILED IN THE SENSE THAT THE DGB WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE WORDING OF THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRPH 7 OF THE COMMUNIQUE.

FINALLY A RUSSIAN SUGGESTION THAT A SECRERARIAT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO EASE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT HE CONFERENCES WAS VETOED BY THE DGB AND THE TUC.

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R 161534Z MAR 77  
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3275  
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 7453

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2541

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR DALE GOOD, S/IL

TO CONCLUDE IT SEEMS THAT THE CONFERENCES WILL  
CONTINUE TO BE LINKED IN A VAGUE WAY TO ILO ACTIVI-  
TIES BUT NOT TAKE PLACE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ESTAB-  
LISHED FORMAL ILO MEETINGS. THIS BEING UNDERSTOOD  
BY THE PARTICIPANTS, THEY PRESUMABLY DID NOT CON-  
SIDER IT NECESSARY TO REPEAT THE CLAUSE IN THE 1975  
COMMUNIQUE WHICH DENIED THAT A NEW TRADE UNION INTER-  
NATIONAL BODY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. . .  
THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THAT IT HAD  
BEEN A SUCCESS. IT WAS MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN IN  
1975 AND MANY EASTERN UNIONS WERE THIS TIME PRE-  
PARED TO CONCEDE THA THEIR OWN SYSTEM WAS NOT  
PERFECT AS FAR AS HEALTH AND SAFETY AND TRADE UNION  
EDUCATION ARE CONCERNED. THE EASTERN UNIONS WERE  
SAID TO BE "DELIGHTED" WITH THE WAY THE CONFERENCE  
HAD GONE AND TO BE "VERY SATISFIED" WITH IT. WHEN  
MURRAY TUC WAS INDRODUCING THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE HE  
INDICATED THAT THE TUC TOO WERE PLEASED WITH THE  
CONFERENCE. HE NOTED THAT UNIONS SHOULD PROCEED  
SLOWLY, STEP BY STEP, IN BROADENING THE BASIS OF  
CONTACT BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IN HIS VIEW NOTHING  
IS RULED-OUT FOR SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES  
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"PROVIDED THEY ARE ELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF WORKERS AND ARE NOT DIVISIVE". THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE, USING BILATERAL CONTACTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THE ILO.

THE INFORMAL VIEWS OF THE TUC DELEGATION AND OF OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS SEEMED TO BE THAT THE CONFERENCE SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE IN LESSENING TENSIONS AND IMPROVIDNG CONTACTS, BUT DID NOT MAKE - NOR PERHAPS WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE - ANY REAL PROGRESS ON THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. SINCE THE PLENARY SESSION IS MORE A PLATFORM FOR HOME CONSUMPTION THAN FOR THE IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR CUTTING IT DOWN TO ONE DAY. THERE WERE A FEW DISGRUNTLED TRADE UNION EXPERTS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AND EDUCATION WHO FELT THAT THEIR TIME HAD BEEN COMPLETELY WASTED, BUT BY AND LARGE THE MORE IMPORTANT WESTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS SEEMED SATISFIED. THE BENELUX UNIONS DEMONSTRATED THEIR "COOLNESS" BY SENDING SECOND STRING LEADERS, BUT THEIR CONTRIUBTUONS TO PLENARY DEBATE WERE "WARM" ENOUGH.

ONLY THE FRRENCH CFDT SEEMED WILLING TO MENTION REALLY CONTROVERSIAL PROBLEMS, "THE NEO-COLONIALISM OF THE EAST," BUT THIS WAS IN PASSING AND NOT DEVELOPED AS A THEME. SO ALL IN ALL IT SEEMS THAT THOSE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT FUTURE CONFERENCES WILL HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE SUCCESSSS OF THIS ONE. END TEXT.HINTON

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